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DE's PA office recipient of Director's Excellence Award

by Jill Bohn, AFRL Public Affairs

KIRTLAND AFB, N.M. — The 2001 AFMC Public Affairs achievement awards competition has honored the work of the AFRL's Directed Energy Directorate's Public Affairs Office, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

The office was recognized for employing proactive and innovative activities to manage a strong public affairs program that encompassed the Airborne Laser, USAF's top technology acquisition program, and other technologies.

Members of the team earning the Director's Excellence Award, first place, small organization category, are Rich Garcia, Conrad Dziewulski, Kenneth Englade, Judy Johnston and Eva Hendren.

The office developed media relationships that led to positive coverage for directorate activities. Nearly 400 media queries, 300 from national and international outlets, were filtered through the office. On average, the office issued one release per week, to inform the public about AFRL research.

"Getting an award like this reflects the contributions and support the entire organization gives to the public," said Rich Garcia. "All the members of the Directed Energy Directorate and the Airborne Laser program can justly take pride in sharing this recognition."

Among other accomplishments for the year 2001, the unit operated a statewide educational outreach program that used Air Force technologies to motivate students, grades K-12. The program received the National Federal Lab Consortium award.



WINNING TEAM – Current members of AFRL Directed Energy Directorate Public Affairs Office are from left Rich Garcia, Judy Johnston, Ken Englade and Eva Hendren (seated).

The first place package will compete at the Air Force level. @